



Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

Winter 2005

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement
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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov.

Help to Clean Virginia's Waterways

There were several pick ups scheduled in October for various watersheds in Virginia. Timescommunity.com advertised a clean up that was held at Lake Accotink in Fairfax County on Saturday, October 22. Volunteers for this event met at the Springfield marina.

The International Coastal Cleanup in Virginia held a pick up on the Eastern Shore at multiple locations in Accomack and Northampton Counties on Saturday October 29.

The Smith River Clean-up in Henry County was held on October 9th. People from all walks of life and ranging in age from pre-school through senior citizens participated in the pick up of Smith River. They collected 6.35 tons of debris in a little over four hours.

Over 50 volunteers and staff members gathered at Hidden Pond to begin the clean up of Pohik Creek in Fairfax County on Saturday October 15, 2005. Trash clean ups can yield some interesting finds. According to Susan Susa, chairperson of the Friends of Hidden Pond, she calls it "garbage archaeology." Trash can start out anywhere, but a lot of it is washed into the waterways. The most bizarre find on this clean up was a coffin lid.

Brad Chewning, Director, DEQ's Valley Regional Office, reports that they have adopted a stretch of North River and conduct clean ups twice a year. Over the past several years, they have collected 172 bags of trash, 161 tires, 8 antique steel wagon wheels, and an assortment of automobile parts, appliances, construction materials, furniture, household fixtures, tanks, various containers, etc.

For information about the trash found in Virginia's waterways and how you can get involved in helping to clean up Virginia's waterways, go to:

<http://www.longwood.edu/cleanva/sitecaptaininfo.htm>

Philip Morris Workshop

Philip Morris USA hosted a Cigarette Litter Prevention Forum at Maymont Park, Richmond on October 12, 2005. Recognizing that cigarette related litter is one of the most commonly found forms of litter in communities today, Philip Morris expressed its commitment to reducing the impact of its product on the environment. The forum was designed to allow Philip Morris to hear from representatives of various environmental organizations with an interest in litter issues to identify ways Philip Morris can add to the national and local anti-litter message. For more information visit:

www.philipmorrisusa.com/en/policies_practices/litter.asp

Did You Know?

- ✓ According to the Performance And Accounting reports that were submitted by the localities for the FY 2005, a total of 9,606 clean-up events, utilizing a total of 97,647 volunteers, cleaned up 65,890 cubic yards of litter.
- ✓ According to Wise County's Performance and Accounting report, there were 31 dumps that were cleaned up.
- ✓ According to § 29.1-556.1 of the Code of Virginia, the release of 50 or more balloons per hour is prohibited. Animals mistake balloons for food and can also get tangled in ribbons. Violation is a civil penalty and fines are made payable to the Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Endowment Fund.

DEQ Employee Recognized for Leading TRO in Environmental Programs in Virginia Beach

Sherry Kattan of DEQ's Tidewater Regional Office was honored on October 1 by the Clean Community Commission of Virginia Beach for the role that she has played in leading her office in their participation in Virginia Beach's Adopt-a-Street, Earth Day Celebration and Storm Drain Marker Project.

Ruby Arredono, the Clean City Commission Coordinator, expressed her gratitude towards Ms. Kattan's volunteer leadership role with Hampton Roads Environmental programs. She also expressed gratitude towards all of the volunteers that have helped with these environmental programs. Ms. Arredono states that last fiscal year, 13,540 volunteers gave 30,370 volunteer hours to the city for environmental projects.

An Adopt-a-Highway Pick-up

The neighbors for Swift Shoals Road in Clark County gathered together to do an Adopt-a-Highway pick up on October 23. Two men who were fishing put down their rods to help with the pick up.

The most interesting find was an upright freezer, but they also gave the lawn mower and rug steamer an honorable mention as unusual finds.

Cathy Gochenour, the Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator for Clarke County, says that there are currently 29 Adopt-a-Highway groups in Clarke County which clean up 59.5 miles of trash in the county. For more information about joining the Adopt-a-Highway program, visit:

<http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/infoservice/prog-aah-default.asp>

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